

BY TELEGRAPH. AMERICAN.

Pinchback, in a public letter, has replied to the attack on his character by Senator Merriman. He deplores the colored line in politics and declares that colored men do not desire its perpetuation. They hope for co-operation of races in the South, and will sink all race questions when their persons are safe from proscription and persecution.

SAN FRANCISCO, 13.—Arrived the steamer *Mikado* from Sydney, with dates to January 14—

New South Wales.—Reports from various parts of the colony give discouraging accounts of agricultural prospects on account of drouth, the same cause producing an unfavorable state of affairs in the pastoral districts. The wool clip is coming in freely. Mining matters are in a depressed condition.

Victoria.—The hay crop is almost destroyed by rains. State aid to religion ceased altogether from the beginning of the year. The spread of leprosy among the Chinese is engaging the serious attention of the Assembly.

Queensland.—New and rich diggings have been discovered at the head of Palmer River. Large numbers are flocking there.

South Australia.—There is much destruction of wheat by heavy rains. Only a third of the crop has been saved from injury.

New Zealand.—The press recommends that the penalties incurred by the Pacific Mail Co. in failing to send the first steamer, *Vasco de Gama*, to Port Chalmers, be rigidly enforced. The government also protested against the size and character of the boat, as not in accordance with the terms of the contract. The very mild winter has been followed by heavy rains. Crops, bridges, railroads, and other property are much damaged. The election resulted in a balance of parties.

WASHINGTON, 14.—A statement of exportation of tobacco and snuff during the six months ending Dec. 31st, 1875, has been issued by the internal revenue office. Quantity moved from manufacturers for exportation, tobacco 4,362,953½ pounds, snuff 12,899½ pounds. Quantity accountable for landed abroad, tobacco 37,050,134 pounds, snuff 155,811½ pounds.

CHICAGO, 14.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says the House committee of the Pacific Railroads now stands six to six upon the Tom Scott Texas Pacific bill, with one doubtful.

David Davis, of Illinois, justice of the supreme court, is beginning to be talked about as a democratic presidential candidate. Several prominent democrats in Congress have arranged a combination to have his name before the convention. They rely on his hard money views and his political views, as expressed in the Milliken decision.

Fredk. Dockray, the American captured in Cuba, and who recently escaped from a Spanish prison, arrived in this city to-day in the steamship *Adriatic*.

It is stated that prominent capitalists in this city and Chicago have obtained a controlling interest in some of the bonds of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and are about to commence foreclosure proceedings.

ST. LOUIS, 14.—Judge Porter, in concluding his argument against the admission of telegrams in the Babcock trial, occupied nearly all the morning session to-day. His conclusions were that they were writings, and whether proven to be what they purported in origin and destination it was still a question of law whether they could be admitted as evidence. He did not by any means admit that this proof and identification had been shown.

To the great majority of these telegrams there were produced no answers at all. Such were merely hearsay, merely letters relating to facts and making inquiries, which did not convey the slightest hint of a conspiracy, but none of these, whatever might be shown of them, or whatever construction put on them, were admissible testimony till, by intrinsic evidence, it had been established that Babcock had knowledge of the existence of a conspiracy. This must first be proven, and it had not been proven.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 10.—The marine insurance bill introduced into the House of Commons to-day provides that

every contract for conveyance of persons or goods shall contain an implied warranty that the ship is seaworthy. The effect of this will be to place passengers on the same footing as the cargo in regard to the liability of shipowners for their safety. The bill further provides that shipowners shall not be able to relieve themselves by contract of this liability, and lastly, when insurance appears to be unreasonably above the real value of the goods, proceedings may be stopped until their value is ascertained by referees appointed for the purpose.

Norwood, member for Hull, declared that he would oppose the measure.

Read, member for Pembroke, formerly chief constructor of the navy, and Sir John Lubbock, member for Maidstone, spoke in approval of the bill.

Sir Charles Adderley, President of the Board of Trade to-day introduced the merchant shipping bill. He said the temporary act of last year worked so satisfactorily that he proposed to make all its provisions permanent in the new bill. Then an additional clause, providing for the establishment of a court of survey, to which any ship owner charged with despatching an overloaded ship will be enabled immediately to appeal, or he may have a survey made for himself, with the assistance of an assessor appointed by the local marine board.

British, German, French, Italian squadrons and the Austrian fleet are bound for Ragusa.

MADRID, 10.—The government has sent to its diplomatic representatives abroad an exhaustive confidential memorandum upon the condition of Cuba. It is proposed to assimilate the government of the colonies to that of Spain by establishing communal liberties and representation of the colonies in the Cortes.

General Burriel has gone to Madrid on account of his health.

ST. PETERSBURG, 10.—The *Invalide Russe* states that the inhabitants of Khokhand recently dispatched Enosis to Nasredin, the lately deposed Khan, asking him to return to Nasredin. He accepted the invitation and entered Khokhand on the 2nd.

General Edward Von Pencker, of the Prussian army, is dead.

SAN SEBASTIAN, 11.—The military hospital here has been burned. The Carlists continue embarking.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 11.—The Porte has agreed to apply Count Andraszy's reform, except the clause that the revenue from the direct tax in Bosnia and Herzegovina be employed for the development of those provinces. The Porte only consents to increase the sum for public works there.

ROME, 11.—The *Bersagliere Liberta*, *Voce della Verita* and *Camittale* newspapers have been seized for publishing the speech made by Garibaldi on the anniversary of the Roman republic, in which the republic was extolled as the only honest form of government.

MADRID, 11.—King Alfonso leaves Madrid for the army next Wednesday.

The *Shipping Gazette's* synopsis of the inquiry in the *Harvest Queen* disaster says the court, while deciding that it was the *Queen* which was sunk, said the Captain of the *Adriatic* clearly was not to blame for the collision and only censurable for unfrankness in failing to report the facts.

The Sultan has agreed to grant amnesty to the insurgents submitting immediately. Austria will thereupon withdraw the subvention granted Turkish refugees and order them to return home.

LONDON, 12.—Sir Baldwin Wake Walker, formerly surveyor general of the British navy, is dead.

PALERMO, 12.—The failure of the Trinacria Steamship Company has created much excitement. Several lesser failures are announced. The government holds the first mortgage of \$1,000,000 on the steamers for the subsidy recently granted, and will probably press its claim.

The Flerio Steamship Company has made a preliminary offer of \$40,000 for the Trinacria Company's business.

PARIS, 13.—*L'Aigle*, a Bonapartist journal, published at Ajaccio, has been seized and prosecuted for attacking the government and publishing a proclamation issued by Napoleon from Welhelmshehe in 1871.

Louis Marcein, Compté de Carne, the eminent publicist and ambassador of the French Academy is dead.

Prince Napoleon has issued an address to the electors of Ajaccio. He denies that his acceptance of the republic is dictated by ambition or personal interest, but declares it comes from profound conviction.

Gabriel Andral, the distinguished physician, is dead.

MADRID, 14.—General Melcompos, Captain General of the Philippine Islands, left Manila on the 3rd of February, with 8,000 troops, to punish the Sooloo pirates.

THE HAGUE, 14.—Venezuela has demanded that the differences with Holland be submitted to arbitration with one of the great European powers.

Correspondence.

The Women's Petition—Journalistic Levity—Kept Women—Social Vice—Frauds on the Poor—Constitutional Liberty.

CHICAGO, Feb. 4, 1876.

I have noticed that the petition to Congress from the female world of Utah has evoked a little comment from our eastern friends. I have also noticed that several attempts at being witty on the head of this petition were made by very verdant and unlettered journalists. There is nothing in the world so disgusting to a man or woman of taste as those miserable platitudes on wit and humor that sully the pages of the American press at the present time. In fact the general tendency of all our eastern writers is towards this humorous strain. All subjects are treated of with levity. Even death itself, in whatever form it appears, is gaily alluded to. The body of a drowned suicide would be termed a "floater," and a good deal of very low wit would be indulged in over the probable life of this floater. Certainly this kind of teaching must have a very injurious effect on society. No doubt a good deal of the bravado manifested by criminals in their last moments on the scaffold can be traced to this source. A short time ago a fiend who was guilty of every crime in the calendar turned poet on the scaffold. This "thing" (for man he could scarcely be called) indulged in all kinds of unrepudiable braggadocio. He conducted himself in such a manner that even hanging was not a fit death for him. One journalist stated, in his graphic description, that this monster "died game." A few days ago there was a man hung at Cairo, Ill., who published a string of verses before his death. It is needless to say that any well-regulated community would not tolerate for a moment the idea of publishing trash such as this man gave utterance to. The revolting ends of these two malefactors ought to form themes for all the thinkers and teachers in the country. No, a few words of smutty wit or a column or two of vapid sensational matter, is deemed sufficient for these trivial things.

A man chops up his mother and father and kills his wife and tries to kill himself in the east a day or two ago. What must lead to this dreadful work? It must surely be some rotten corner in our social fabric. A man who owns two newspapers turns a forger and flies the country. Doubtless the rev. name of this worthy has already reached you. But innocent Mr. Winslow is safe at home by this. One of our Chicago teachers has also got into trouble. He owned the *Western Rural*.

But I am wandering too far from what I intended to be the theme of this production—the petition from Utah. I was thinking about these 23,000 who petitioned the government for a recognition of their rights and their religion. It is strange that in this country, whose founders counseled toleration for all religions, modern statesmen will hardly deign to think seriously for a moment on yours. And yet before them lies a petition, signed by 23,000 females, yes 23,000 females, among whom there is not one abandoned creature—all either virtuous maids or chaste mothers. What a spectacle! Oh, but our pious journalist will say they are slaves; they are forced to do this; and besides they are concubines. Well, it is very easy to prove that such is not the case by a comparison with our method of doing things here. Let us take 23,000 females in this city of any grade, and place them beside the same number from Utah and ask seriously which is the best evidence of sound society. It is very hard to

enter into facts, and truth is always supposed to be bitter, but is it not better to speak truth than ruin society by false teaching? Among our 23,000, the pre-natal homicidist the adulteress, the harlot, the concubine, the abortionist, etc., can be found. Five out of every ten would have a tale of sorrow and corruption to tell, and would heartily wish for some phase of society that would prevent such awful mishaps.

It may be safely estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 females exist in Chicago alone who are known as "kept women." These females are comfortably quartered in furnished rooms and all their expenses paid by heads of families. Married men are usually the best supporters of this class of females. In fact this "woman" business has grown to be an institution in our large cities.

In Chicago alone I could name hundreds of respectable business men who are fathers of families, and who keep women. We have, in our palatial blocks, furnished rooms on the hotel plan, but more properly speaking assignation houses. There is more liberty in them than in the hotel. These rooms are luxuriously furnished, the occupants of them have nothing to do but sleep. It is no wonder that the position of "kept woman" is now more sought after than that of married woman by a certain class of females. The young woman who is placed in one of these nice rooms, with board paid, and all attendance at hand, is certainly happy, or ought to be. But suppose the history of one is traced, what does it unfold? There is a pretty young woman working in a store. The employer takes a fancy to her and immediately takes steps to secure possession of her—body and soul. One of those furnished rooms is procured in a splendid block. The young girl is taken there and introduced to the janitress of the building, who immediately adopts her as daughter, because a ten or twenty dollar bill accompanies the introduction. But where is the use of following this doomed creature through the different scenes of life's dark drama? To-morrow she appears as an abortionist, the next day in a bagnio, the day after a "Madame," and so on until a miserable end closes the drama.

Who can say the picture is overdrawn? It is well known that all great humanitarians have had something to say on this "social evil" and the causes which conduce most to its development. All writers have condemned the "social evil," but no remedy has succeeded in banishing it. It is conceded that its absence from society would be a benefit; therefore why inveigh against a religion and social fabric which promise to be a sure guard against this. From the little that I understand about the religion of the people of Utah, I do believe that it will be a successful safeguard against all those kinds of vice which degrade and immolate humanity.

Take our society outside this sexual question, and see if it will bear analysis. Only yesterday I talked to the mother of four children and learned from her the old, old story. She was a German, her husband was a hardworking man, and between them they managed to put a few dollars a week into a savings bank regularly during the last few years. About two months ago this savings bank turned out to be a regular confidence swindle. The poor couple did not get ten cents out of their hard-earned savings. To crown the unhappiness of this wretched family, the poor man got disemployed a few weeks ago, and is now dependent on the charity of friends. Another woman told me that her husband worked for six months on a railroad, and got cheated out of his wages. What wonder is it that we have what the press calls communists in our midst, but what I would call poor working men who have been the victims of base unprincipled confidence operators? In short, it would be easy to prove to the legislators of this country, that the female petition from Utah is a reality, and should not be superciliously ignored.

Besides, are the present generation of statesmen to transmit their names to posterity as subverters of their country's laws? Constitutional jurisprudence will require them to prove that "Mormonism" is not a religion before they can consistently interfere with it. Every school boy knows what the word religion means. And the recent action of

the women of Utah proves that they have a religion—yes, indisputably proves it. History can show that it is a religion surpassing any that appear elsewhere on the earth. Its members are harmoniously bound together. No complaints reach us of personal or individual oppression. We read no wholesale accounts of fractured faith, blighted truth, etc.

I would be sorry to think that statesmen of this great country should thoughtlessly essay to subvert the hallowed traditions and sacred edicts of our fathers. The women of Utah have convinced the world that theirs is a religion. They have convinced the world that they enjoy a purer religion than an equal number of any other women in the world. They require but a very moderate demand—to be let manage their own affairs, socially and religiously, and in a measure politically. In fact I can't reconcile with my ideas of probity and fairness that any sane statesman would venture on such dreadfully dangerous ground as the overturning of a religion would be. And I am sure President Grant won't sully the name of hero and soldier, by rendering himself liable to the production of another poem like *Evangeline*.

MRS. D. D.

Well Treated—A Co-worker—Prejudice—Those Who Oppose—A Liberal Denomination.

NORMAL, Illinois,
February 3rd, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

I returned to this point a few days ago from another trip into the country, preaching and lecturing, my health being only moderately good, owing to the sudden changes from extreme cold to very mild weather, that we have been subject to this winter, so that I found a few days rest positively necessary, as I have been speaking almost every night.

I was well treated and kindly received by the great majority of the people, who listened attentively to what I had to say and earnestly requested me to return to the same locality again, which I expect to do to-morrow, and have now somewhere between fifteen and twenty appointments already made.

Bro. Jos. Standing, from he 12th Ward, will probably arrive here the first of next week, to assist me in my labors, for which I feel very thankful, and trust that with the spirit of God to enlighten our minds our united efforts may result in some good in this locality.

A suggestion made by Brother Miles P. Romney, now laboring in Wisconsin, "that the Elders would do better to concentrate their labors," and published recently in the NEWS, was, I am satisfied, a good one from the fact that the people generally are totally ignorant in regard to our views, and many of them grossly prejudiced, so that it requires two or three public meetings to enable them to overcome their prejudices so as to examine into our principles with any fairness. I find that the first meeting is attended by the people pretty much upon the principle that they attend a circus, or panorama, merely out of curiosity. After the first, there is then some opportunity offered to give them a reason for the faith that we have, and I find many ready and anxious to examine into our religious belief.

I spoke one night on "plural marriage," by request and had a large audience, who gave close attention and appeared deeply interested.

The only opposition I meet is from the ministers and leading members of some of the churches, who appear to get furious at the sight of a "Mormon Elder."

I find the denomination called Christians, or Campbellites, ahead of the rest in their willingness to investigate, and open their churches to all classes of people, and their action generally is very liberal.

I am very truly your brother,
J. MORGAN.

A Fire.

BRIGHAM CITY, Feb. 9, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

About 4 p.m. yesterday, a house on the north part of town, belonging to President Snow, which was built and owned formerly by W. C. Thomas, was discovered to have caught fire, and a great number of people were seen in the streets,